Exhibit 1

Case 5:14-cv-30075 Document 1 Filed 12/16/14 Page 1 of 5 PageID #; 1

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA BECKLEY DIVISION

SARA M. LAMBERT SMITH and SCOTT SMITH, her husband,

Plaintiffs,

| v. | Civil Action No. | 5:14-cv-30075 | |
|----|------------------|---------------|--|
| | Honorable | , Judge | |

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

- 1. Plaintiffs, Sara M. Lambert Smith and Scott Smith, her husband, are citizens of the State of West Virginia with permanent residency in Herndon, Wyoming County, West Virginia.
- The Defendant the United States of America, through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, at all times alleged herein is the federal governing body responsible for controlling, supervising and managing the business affairs of its public health care provider, Community Health Systems, Inc. d/b/a Access Health Associates in OB/GYN. Included within the duties and responsibilities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is the oversight and supervision of its employee/agent physicians, employees/agent nurse midwife and other health care providers at Community Health Systems, Inc. d/b/a Access Health Associates in OB/GYN, specifically including, but not limited to Dr. Roy Wolfe. (hereinafter referred to as "Access Health").
 - 3. The Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C.S. § 1346(b) and §§ 2671-2680

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provides that any action for medical malpractice against Public Health Service employees may be filed against the United States of America once all administrative remedies have been exhausted.

- 4. On June 12, 2014, the Plaintiffs Sara M. Lambert Smith and Scott Smith submitted their Claim for Damage, Injury or Death to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.
- On or about October 21, 2014, Plaintiffs received a letter from the Department
 of Health and Human Services denying their claim, which is attached as Exhibit 2.
- Plaintiffs have complied with the filing requirements set forth in West
 Virginia Code §55-7B-6,
- 7. On December 18, 2013, Sara M. Lambert Smith, then 24 years old, underwent a primary low segment transverse cesarean section performed by Dr. Michael Webb, an employee of Access Health. In his operative report, Dr. Webb indicated that the placenta "seemed abnormally adherent."
- 8. On December 25, 2013, Sara M. Lambert Smith presented to the Emergency Room at Raleigh General Hospital with complaints of a sudden onset of heavy vaginal bleeding and syncope. An ultrasound obtained in the ER was suggestive of possible retained products of conception.
- 9. Sara M. Lambert Smith was then taken to the Operating Room and underwent a dilation and curretage (D&C) performed by Dr. Roy Wolfe, an employee/agent of Access Health. The D&C was unsuccessful in stopping the bleeding. Dr. Wolfe then proceeded directly to a hysterectomy.

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- 10. Dr. Wolfe and Access Health failed to properly manage Sara M. Lambert Smith's condition when she presented on December 25, 2013.
- 11. Dr. Wolfe and employees or agents of Access Health performed a hysterectomy, without considering alternative procedures for Sara M. Lambert Smith, a 24 year old female who desired further children.
- As a result of the failure by Dr. Roy Wolfe and other agents or employees of Access Health to properly manage Sara Lambert Smith's condition and to consider and/or attempt alternative procedures prior to a hysterectomy, Sara M. Lambert Smith suffered a permanent injury and is no longer able to conceive and bear other children, as well as other permanent consequences.
- negligent and practiced below the applicable standards of care in the medical treatment and care provided to Sara M. Lambert Smith as aforesaid and are guilty of medical malpractice and negligence in their care, and lack of care and treatment of Sara M. Lambert Smith. The treatment and/or lack of treatment provided by Dr. Roy Wolfe and other agents or employees of Access Health, as outlined herein, was negligent and below the standard of care that an ordinary prudent physician or other health care provider would have exercised under like or similar circumstances. The treatment and/or lack of treatment, provided by employees or agents of Access Health, as outlined herein, resulted in Sara M. Lambert Smith's permanent injuries, and also resulted in the loss of a chance of her uterus being spared and the ability to have further children.

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14. The United States of America is liable for the negligence of its respective

public health service employees who were the employees or agents of Access Health referenced

herein.

15. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence, carelessness, recklessness,

incompetent management, willful lack of care, and deviation from the normal standard of medical

care of the agents or employees of Access Health as stated herein, and others, Plaintiff Sara M.

Lambert Smith has suffered and will continue to suffer a significant and life altering permanent

bodily injury, including, but not limited to the loss of her uterus and the ability to bear children; has

incurred medical expenses in the past, and may do so in the future; has endured significant pain and

suffering, has endured mental anguish, both in the past and will do so in the future; has sustained an

impairment of her ability to enjoy life, and will continue to do so in the future; and has suffered

aggravation, annoyance, and inconvenience, and will do so in the future and therefore, seeks all

damages allowed by law.

16. As a further direct and proximate result of the negligent acts of the agents or

employees of Access Health as stated herein, and others, Plaintiff Scott Smith has been deprived of

the consortium, society and comfort of his wife, Sara M. Lambert Smith, including, but not limited

to their inability to have additional children, and has also suffered and will continue to suffer mental

anguish, which would not have occurred, but for the aforesaid injuries.

PLAINTIFFS DEMAND A TRIAL BY JURY.

SARA M. LAMBERT SMITH and SCOTT SMITH, her husband,

By Counsel

4

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/Robert V. Berthold, Jr.

Robert V. Berthold, Jr. (WVSB #326) Holly G. DiCocco (WVSB #8571) BERTHOLD LAW FIRM PLLC Post Office Box 3508 Charleston, WV 25335 (304) 345-5700 – Telephone (304) 345-5703 – Facsimile

Arden Curry, II (WVSB #908)
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Charleston, West Virginia 25302-2300
(304) 342-6000 - Telephone
(304) 342-6007 - Facsimile
Counsel for Plaintiffs

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BERTHOLD LAW FIRM

208 Capitol Street PO Box 3508 Charleston, WV 25335 p (304) 345-5700 f (304) 345-5703 Robert V. Berthold, Jr. Holly C. DiCocco* Robert V. Berthold, III Matthew C. Berthold

bertholdlaw.com

June 12, 2014

Via Certified Mail No. 7008 2810 0000 2371 4735
Claims Office OGC/GLC/CELB
United States Department of Health & Human Services
330 C Street, SW
Switzer Building, Suite 2600
Washington, DC 20201

NOTICE OF CLAIM

Re: Sara M. Lambert Smith and Scott Smith, her husband

Date of Loss: December 25, 2013

Government Entities: Dr. Roy Wolfe and Access Health OB/GYN

Beckley, West Virginia

Dear Claims Office:

Enclosed herewith is a copy of the Claim for Damage, Injury or Death that I submit for filing on behalf of my clients, Sara M. Lambert Smith and Scott Smith, her husband. I, along with Arden J. Curry, II, am counsel for the claimants. If you or the Department of Health and Human Services need any additional information, please contact me at the above address and phone number.

I trust that by filing this claim with you the Department of Health and Human Services and United States of America is formally on notice of our claim. I am also enclosing our Notice of Claim and Certificate or Merit, as required under West Virginia law.

Best regards.

Very truly yours

Robert V. Berthold, Jr.

RVB/meb

cc: Stephen Horn, Esquire, United States Attorney's Office, SDWV

Arden J. Curry, II, Esquire

Sara M. Lambert Smith & Scott Smith

Enclosure

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| INJURY, OR DEATH form. | | INSTRUCTIONS: Please read carefully the instructions on the reverse side and supply Information requested on both sides of this form. Use additional sheet(s) if necessary. See reverse side for additional instructions. | | | FORM APPROVED OMB NO. 1105-0006 | |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Submit To Appropriate Federal Agency: Department of Health & Human Services | | | 2. Name, Address of claimant and claimant's personal representative, if any. (See Instructions on reverse.) (Number, Street, City, State and Zip Code) Sara Lambert Smith & Scott Smith, her husband c/o Robert V. Berthold, Jr. Berthold Law Firm, PLLC 208 Capitol Street, 2nd Floor, Charleston, WV 25301 | | | |
| 3. TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT D MILITARY & CIVILIAN | 4, DATE OF BIRTH 02/06/1989 | 5. MARITAL STA Married | ATUS | 6, DATE AND DAY OF ACC 12/25/2013 | IDENT | 7. TIME (A.M. OR P.M.) a.m. and p.m. |
| 8. Basis of Claim (State in detail place of occurrence and the claim Lambert was admitted to Ral that she developed after the delive free minutes of the comber 25, 2013 was Dr. Roy the claimant contonds that Dr. Wometical care, As a result of the demogrammes. This hysteractomy powericant y of the pelvic floor and a | ause thereof. Use addit elgh General Hospital in try of her child at the sar Volfe, who was assisted offe and agents and emp evilation from the normal | ional pages if nece Beckley, West Vir ne hospital on Dec by Dr. Normal Sie loyees of Access I standard of medic a Lambert Smith fr | essary.) rginia or cember gel, wh Health (al cere, rom deli | n December 25, 2013 with reg 18, 2013. The gynecologist w o were employees of Access h DB/GYN care of Sara Lambert Sara suffered a surgical hyste yering other children, and also | ard to significant ho handled the s lealth OB/GYN i Smith was below erectomy wilhout Includes damag | bleeding and complications urgical hysterectomy on n Beckley, Wost Virginia. withe applicable standard of attempts at attornative to internal organs. |
| 9. | | PROPE | KTY DA | MAGE | | |
| NAME AND ADDRÉSS OF OWNER, N/A | IF OTHER THAN CLAIMAN | T (Number, Street, C | City, State | e, and Zip Code). | | |
| BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE PROPERT (See Instituctions on roverse side.) | Y, NATURE AND EXTENT | OF DAMAGE AND 1 | THE LOC | ATION WHERE PROPERTY MAY | r BE INSPECTED. | |
| 10. | | PERSONAL INJU | /RY/WR | ONGFUL DEATH | | |
| STATE NATURE AND EXTENT OF E INJURED PERSON OR DECEDENT, Sara Lambert Smith has sustained outure, as well as all other adverse | a permanent lolury as a | result of the surg | lcal hys | terectomy as aforesald, which | prevents her fro | m bearing children in the |
| 11 | | W | ITNESSI | £\$ | | |
| NAME ADDRESS (Number, Street, City, State, and Zip Code) | | | de) | | | |
| Sora Lambert Smith & Scott Smith HC 69, Box 168-A, He Employees of Raieigh General Hospital 1710 Harper Road, Br | | eckley, WV 25801 3/GYN, 410 Carrlage Drive, Beckley, WV 25801 | | | | |
| 12. (See instructions on reverse.) | | AMOUNT O | F CLAIN | / (In dollars) | | |
| 12a. PROPERTY DAMAGE | 12b. PERSONAL INJURY | | | 12d, TOTAL (Fallure to specify may cause forfaiture of your rights.) | | |
| None | | \$2,000,000.00 | | None | | \$2,000,000.00 |
| I CERTIFY THAT THE AMOUNT OF I | CLAIM COVERS ONLY DA | MAGES AND INJUF | RIES CA | USED BY THE INCIDENT ABOVE | AND AGREE TO | ACCEPT SAID AMOUNT IN |
| 13a SIGNATURE OF CLAMANU (Sue Instructions on reverse side.) | | 13b. Phone number of person signing form 304-345-5700 | | 14, DATE OF SIGNATURE 06/12/2014 | | |
| CIVIL PENALTY FOR PRESENTING FRAUDULENT CLAIM | | CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR PRESENTING FRAUDULENT CLAIM OR MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS | | | | |
| The claimant is lighted to the United States Government for the civil pensity of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$10,000, plus 3 times the amount of damages sustained by the Government. (See 31 U.S.C. 3729.) | | | Fine of not more than \$10,000 or Imprisonment for not more than 5 years or both (See 18 U.S.C. 267, 1001.) | | | |

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| INSURANCE COVERAGE | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| In order that subregation claims may be adjudicated, it is essential that the claimant provid- | te the following information regarding the insurance coverage of his vehicle or property. | | | | |
| 15, Do you, corry accident Insurance? In Yes If yes, give name and address of insurance company (Number, Street, City, State, and Zip Code) and policy number K No | | | | | |
| 16. Have you filed a claim on your insurance carrier in this instance, and if so, is it full cover | erage or deductible'? 日Yes 国No 17, If deductible, state emount, | | | | |
| 18. If a claim has been filed with your carrier, what action has your insurer taken or proposed to take with reference to your claim? (If is necessary that you ascertain these facts.) None | | | | | |
| 19. Do you carry public liability and properly damage insurance? If Yes, give name and address of insurance carrier (Number, Street, City, State, and Zip Code). 9: No | | | | | |
| (NSTR | LICTIONS | | | | |
| INSTRUCTIONS Claims presented under the Federal Tort Claims Act should be submitted directly to the "appropriate Federal agency" whose employee(s) was involved in the incident. If the incident involves more than one claimant, each claimant should submit a separate claim form. | | | | | |
| Complete all items - insort the | o word NONE where applicable, | | | | |
| A CLAIM SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN PRESENTED WHEN A FEDERAL AGENCY RECEIVES FROM A CLAIMANT, HIS DULY AUTHORIZED AGENT, OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE, AN EXECUTED STANDARD FORM §5 OR OTHER WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF AN INCIDENT, ACCOMPANIED BY A CLAIM FOR MONEY | DAMAGES IN A SUM CERTAIN FOR INJURY TO OR LOSS OF PROPERTY, PERSONAL INJURY, OR DEATH ALLEGED TO HAVE OCCURRED BY REASON OF THE INCIDENT THE CLAIM MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AGENCY WITHIN TWO YEARS AFTER THE CLAIM ACCRUES. | | | | |
| Failure to completely execute this form or to supply the requested material within two years from the date the claim accrued may render your claim invalid. A claim is deemed presented when it is received by the appropriate agency, not when it is mailed. | The amount claimed should be substantiated by compotent evidence as follows. (a) In support of the claim for pursonal injury or iteath, the claim and should submit a written report by the distincting physician, showing the nature and extent of injury, the nature and extent of treatment, the distinct of treatment, the distinct of the proposals, and the period of hespitalization, or insepactation, althorization thing itemized tills for medical, troughail, or burial | | | | |
| If instruction is needed in completing this form, the agency listed in flom #1 on the reverse side may be contacted. Complete regulations portnining to claims assorted under the Federal Tort Claims Act can be found in Title 26, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 14. Many agencies have published supplementing regulations. If more than one agency is involved, please state each agency. | (b) In support of claims for demage to property, which has been or can be economically repulsed, the claimant should autimit at least two literated signed statements or estimates by realiable, disinterested concerns, or, if payment has been made, the tinuited signed receipts evidencing payment. | | | | |
| The claim may be filed by a duly amberized agent or other logal rapresentative, provided distince satisfictory to the Government is submitted with the claim entablishing express authority to not for the columnia. A claim proported by an agent or logal representative must be presented in the name of the claimait. If the claim is stoned by the agent of logal representative is most show the title or logal capacity of the purson signing and be accompanied by evidence of lighter authority to present a claim on behalf of the violational as agent, execution, infembrishing parent, guardian or other representative. | (c) In support of claims for damage to property which is not occupanically repaintize, or if the property is lost or destroyed, the claiment should submit statements as to the original cost of the property, the date of purchase, and the value of the property, buth believe and stort the accident. Such statements should be by disinterested competent pursons, prefunably reputable dealers or officials familiar with the type of property thangest, or by two or more compatitive bilders, and should be certified as being just and correct. | | | | |
| If claimant inlonds to his for both pursonal injury and property damage, the amount for each must be shown in item #12 of this form. | (d) Failure to specify a sum certain will render your claim invalid and may result in forfaiture of your rights. | | | | |
| PRIVACY ACT NOTICE | | | | | |
| This Notice is provided in accordance with the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 5528(a)(3), and concerns the information requested in the letter to which this Notice is attached. A. Authority: The requested information is solicited pursuant to one of more of the following: 5 U.S.C. 301, 28-U.S.C. 501 et seq., 28 U.S.C. 2671 et seq., 28 C.F.R. Part 14. | Principal Purpose: The information requested is to be used in evaluating claims. Routine Use: See the Notices of Systems of Records for the agency to whom you are submitting this form for this information. Effect of Failure to Respond: Disclosure is voluntary. However, failure to supply the requested information or to execute the form may render your claim "Invalid". | | | | |
| | the requested information or to execute the form may render your clein "Invalid". | | | | |

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT NOTICE

This coline is sately for the purpose of the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 hours par response, including the for reviewing instructions, searching existing state sources, patterning and maintaining the data nearlest, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send companies regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this coloration of information, including suggestions for inducing lists function, to the Director, Total Brieford, Attention, Paperwork Reduction Staff, Civil Division, U.S. Department of Justice Washington, D.C. 2053ff or to the Office of Management and footing one in a complete form(s) to these accrosses.



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the General Counsel General Law Division

330 C Street, SW Switzer Building, Suite 2600 Washington, DC 20201

OCT 2 1 2014

Robert V. Berthold, Jr., Esquire Berthold Law Firm 208 Capitol Street P.O. Box 3508 Charleston, West Virginia 25335

Re:

Administrative Tort Claim of Sara Lambert Smith and Scott Smith

Claim No. 2014-0460

Dear Mr. Berthold:

On June 17, 2014, you presented the above-referenced administrative claim, under the Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 1346(b), 2401(b), 2671-2680, on behalf of your clients, Sara Lambert Smith and Scott Smith, alleging, *inter alia*, that, on December 25, 2013, Dr. Roy Wolfe, Dr. Normal Siegel, and Community Health Systems, Inc., d/b/a Access Health Associates in OB/GYN, located in Beckley, West Virginia, performed a hysterectomy without attempting alternative procedures, which caused Sara Lambert Smith to suffer the inability to bear children and personal injury.

The Federal Tort Claims Act ("FTCA") authorizes the settlement of any claim of money damages against the United States for, *inter alia*, damage caused by the negligent, wrongful act or omission of any employee of the Federal government while acting within the scope of employment under circumstances where the United States, if a private person, would be liable to the claimant in accordance with the law of the place where the act or omission occurred. 28 U.S.C. § 2672.

This letter constitutes the notice of final determination on this administrative tort claim, as required by 28 U.S.C. §§ 2401(b), 2675(a). The administrative tort claim is denied. The evidence fails to establish that the alleged injuries were caused by the negligent, or wrongful, act or omission of a federal employee acting within the scope of employment.

If your clients are dissatisfied with this determination, they are entitled to:

1. file a written request with the agency for reconsideration of the final determination denying the claim within six (6) months from the date of mailing of this determination (28 C.F.R. § 14.9); or

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Page 2 - Robert V. Berthold, Jr., Esquire

2. file suit against the United States in the appropriate federal district court within six (6) months from the date of mailing of this determination (28 U.S.C. § 2401(b)).

In the event your clients request reconsideration, the agency will review the claim within six months from the date the request is received. If the reconsidered claim is denied, your clients may file suit within six months from the date of mailing of the final determination of this claim.

Sincerely yours,
William a. Bigloo / Ha-

William Biglow

Acting Deputy Associate General Counsel Claims and Employment Law Branch

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1S 44 (Rev. 12/12)

RECEIPT#

AMOUNT

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained hereio neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Indicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Cicik of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. ISEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM)

| I. (a) PLAINTIFFS SARA M. LAMBERT SM and SCOTT SMITH, he | | | | DEFENDANTS UNITED STATES | | |
|--|---|--|-----------------|--|--|--|
| (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) | | - | NOTE: INLAND C | e of First Listed Defendant #N U.S. PLAINCIFF CASES ONDEMNATION CASES, USG FOR LAND INVOLVED. | | |
| (c) Attorneys (Firm Nume BERTHOLD LÄW FIRM Charleston, WV 25335 Sivd., W, Charleston, W | , PLLC, 208 Capitol S and PAULEY CURRY | t., P.O. Box 3508, | ha | Atturneys (tj Kaawa) | | |
| II. BASIS OF JURISD | CTION (Place on "X" in | (Ine Box Only) | | | RINCIPAL PARTIES | Phoeogra "X" in One Bas for Plain |
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| Cl. 230 Reof Lease & Ejectment | ill 442 Employment | □ 510 Motions to Vacate | | | # 871 JRS —Third Party | 7 956 Constitutionality of |
| 240 Terts to Land | 17 443 Housing/ | Sentence | | | 26 USC 7609 | State Statistics |
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| | noved from 13 3 | Remanded from Appellate Court | 4 Rems Reope | | rred from O 6 Multidistr r District Litigation | |
| | | tate under which you are 6(b) and §§ 2671-2 | | not cite jurisdictional state | otes unless diversity): | |
| VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO | Hrief description of ca Medical Malpracti | use: | 000 | | | |
| VII. REQUESTED IN | | IS A CLASS ACTION | DE | MAND \$ | CHECK YES only | if demanded in complaint: |
| COMPLAINT: | UNDER RULE 2 | | | | JURY DEMAND: | X Yes O No |
| VIII. RELATED CASE | (S) | | | | | |
| IF ANY | (See mstructions) | JUDGB | | | DOCKETNUMBER | |
| DATE | | SIGNATURE OF ATT | | RECORD | | |
| 12/15/2014 | | /Robert V. Berth | old, Jr. | | | |
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY | | | | | | |

APPLYING IFF

MAG. JUDGE

JUDGE